

VZCZCXRO4160  
PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH  
DE RUEHKO #3503 3590532  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 240532Z DEC 08  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9687  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY  
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 1599  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 3956  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 9538  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 2165  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 5390  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 6966  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2662  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 2985  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3055  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 003503

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - AFGHANISTAN

11. LEAD STORIES: Front-page items this morning included a Yomiuri piece from Detroit on the struggling U.S. auto industry.

12. "U.S. Asking Europe to Take Coordinated Steps in Afghanistan" On JCS Chairman Adm. Mullen's remarks expressing America's readiness to double its force presence in Afghanistan, the business-oriented Nikkei wrote from New Delhi (12/23): "Behind Washington's desire to have the U.S. and Europe jointly enhancing their troop presence in Afghanistan lie its intention to move away from the current policy of resisting Taliban offensives and instead expanding the coalition's sphere of influence by taking advantage of the greater mobility of coalition troops.... The U.S. military appears to have the view that in order to fundamentally improve the security situation in Afghanistan, there is no choice but to hold peace talks

with the Taliban in the judgment that a complete military victory will be difficult. To that end, the U.S. hopes to turn the current situation around through

the joint deployment with Europe of additional troops and to ratchet up military pressure on the Taliban."

ZUMWALT